

LATEST NEWS

First NGSIM Stakeholder Meeting a Success

The Federal Highway Administration hosted the first stakeholder meeting for the Next Generation Simulation Model (NGSIM) program, which took place at the University of Maryland, College Park on March 24-25, 2003. More than 50 simulation experts from all over the world participated at the meeting in three stakeholder groups: simulation model users, traffic modelers, and software developers. The workshop focused on the identification and prioritization of requirements for the NGSIM program.

NGSIM Engages Transportation Simulation Community

The objective of the NGSIM program is to develop a core of open, documented behavioral algorithms in support of traffic simulation, with a primary focus on microscopic modeling. The goals of NGSIM are to improve the quality and performance of simulation tools; promote the use of simulation for research and applications; and achieve wider acceptance of validated simulation results.



As part of the program, NGSIM will collect and distribute a rich set of validation data, focused on the needs of microscopic simulation models. These products will be distributed openly and made freely available to the broad transportation community. The NGSIM program intends to influence and stimulate the commercial traffic simulation modeling market by fostering an environment of public-private cooperation.

At the workshop, stakeholder groups focused on NGSIM requirements and keys to the program's success. Members of the simulation users stakeholder group identified gaps in the state-of-the-practice of microscopic traffic simulation. The traffic modelers group focused on gaps in the state-of-the-art of traffic simulation. Software developers identified requirements for incorporating the results of NGSIM in commercial products. Participants' responses to the goals of NGSIM and to the workshop itself were overwhelmingly positive.

Stakeholders Agree: Workshop and NGSIM Highly Beneficial

"In the past, the microsimulation technique could not reach its full potential because of the technical limitations of existing microsimulation software. The NGSIM workshop brought together many leaders in this field to identify and prioritize the most pressing technical issues that need to be solved so that we can have complete confidence in the results of microsimulation analysis," said John Shaw of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and a member of the NGSIM model user stakeholder community.

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– Professor Thanasis Ziliaskoupoulos,
Northwestern University

According to Professor Thanasis Ziliaskoupoulos of Northwestern University, a member of the NGSIM traffic modeler stakeholder group, "We need NGSIM and we need data and these relationships to be collected... During all my years of work, I have needed what NGSIM says it is going to provide."

As a member of the NGSIM software developers group, Scott Aitken of Quadstone (developers of the Paramics traffic simulation software package) believes that the workshop was conducive to its goal of cooperation: "The NGSIM meetings have been informative, well organized, and focused. As a result of the informal atmosphere in which they are conducted, open and varied discussions have lead to positive outcomes, benefiting the group as a whole and progression to the NGSIM goals."

Get Involved in NGSIM!

Engaging the community via an open process is core to the program, and stakeholders will continue to drive NGSIM by participating in additional physical meetings and via electronic discussions. Members of the broader transportation community are encouraged to actively participate in the program by registering their interest at the NGSIM web site, which hosts both general program information and user-driven forums. For more information, visit the NGSIM web site at <http://ngsim.fhwa.dot.gov>.

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